



BRIERFIELD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the

YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31st, 1949

Medical Officer of Health:-

DR. A. BARLOW, M.B., Ch.B.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
TOWN HALL,
BRIERFIELD.

September, 1950.

To the Chairman and Members,
BRIERFIELD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Gentlemen,

In accordance with the Ministry of Health Circular No. 2/50, an Interim Report only, on the lines of the 1948 report is presented for the year 1949. It includes only essential or urgent matters, which have affected public health during the year. All records and statistics are being preserved so that the annual records may, as far as practicable, be continuous and complete.

I have pleasure, therefore, in submitting for your consideration the following interim report on the Health, Sanitary conditions and Public Health administration in the Urban District of Brierfield for the year ended 31st December, 1949.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

A. J. Atkinson
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

The number of inhabited houses at the end of 1949, according to the Rate Book was 2,482, the Rateable Value being £42,789, and the sum represented by a penny rate being £175.

The social conditions were good, but there was some overcrowding; the chief industry is Cotton Weaving, with a small amount of Spinning and Dyeing.

VITAL STATISTICS

POPULATION The population, as estimated by the Registrar General for Mid-1949 is 7,050.

BIRTHS 104 live births belonging to the District occurred during 1949, as follows:-

	Male	Female	Total
Live Births (Legitimate)	50	47	97
(Illegitimate)	1	6	7
	<u>51</u>	<u>53</u>	<u>104</u>
Stillbirths	-	2	<u>2</u>

Comparative particulars with regard to Live Births over the last five years, are given in the following table:-

	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945
Total Live Births	104	107	132	117	118

Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population	14.8	15.5	19.6	17.6	18.6
...

INFANTILE MORTALITY 2 Children under 1 year of age died during the year, as follows:-

Cause of Death	Male	Female	Age
Broncho Pneumonia	-	1	3 mths.
Acute Gastro Enteritis	-	1	6½ "

Comparative particulars with regard to Infantile Mortality, over the last five years, are given in the following table:-

	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945
Total Deaths under 1 year .. .	2	3	6	3	3
Inf. Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births	19	28.0	45.4	25.6	25.4

DEATHS: 98 Deaths, belonging to the District, occurred during 1949, as follows:-

	Male	Female	Total
Deaths within the Urban District	33	36	69
Deaths outside District (in hospitals, institutions, etc.)	18	11	<u>29</u>
			98

Comparative particulars with regard to Deaths over the last five years are given in the following tables:-

	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945
Total Deaths	98	89	100	113	92
Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population ..	13.9	12.8	14.9	17.0	14.5

The following table gives the ages at which death occurred, also the causes of all deaths belonging to Brierfield during the year 1949:-

SUMMARY OF DEATHS

<u>Causes of Death</u>	<u>Under 1 yr.</u>	<u>1-5</u>	<u>5-15</u>	<u>15-25</u>	<u>25-65</u>	<u>65 & over</u>	<u>Total</u>
Tuberculosis - Non Pulmonary /				1			1
Influenza					3		3
Cancer				4	13		17
Diabetes					1		1
Intra Cranial							
Vascular Lesions ..					13		13
Heart Disease				6	33		39
Bronchitis					1	6	7
Pneumonia	1				1	1	3
Asthma						1	1
Diarrhoea (Under 2 yrs.)	1						1
Nephritis						1	1
Violence				1			1
Senile Decay						3	3
Arterio Sclerosis				1			1
Pulmonary Embolism				1			1
Status Epilepticus				1			1
Senile Dementia						1	1
Gholæmia				1			1
Uraemia					1		1
Acute Pulmonary Oedema						1	1

2 1 17 78 98

VENEREAL
DISEASE

The nearest clinic is at Burnley.

Any cases discovered are advised to attend the Burnley Clinic.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION

WATER

Brierfield is supplied with a constant supply of water from the mains of Nelson Corporation, and there were no new sources of supply during the year. The water is of good quality and in good supply, apart from a few houses in Marsden Heights area where the supply is intermittent, and a few houses in various streets where, probably, the joint service pipes are too small. With one exception, all houses in the District are supplied direct from public mains, and there has been no evidence of any form of contamination. No examinations are made by us, as routine examinations are made by Nelson Corporation Water Department.

SEWAGE
DISPOSAL

No extensions to sewers or sewage works were made during the year, and the existing services and arrangements have been efficiently maintained.

CLOSET
ACCOMMODATION

There are approximately 14 pail closets in the District, at isolated cottages in Marsden Heights.

SCAVENGING This was carried out by the Council's own workmen, with a two-ton "Bedford" Tipping Wagon. Domestic refuse is collected weekly free of charge from private houses, shops and mills, and disposed of at the Council's Destructor Works.

SALVAGE Salvage Work has been efficiently maintained, and the following amounts of materials were salvaged during the year:-

<u>Weights</u>			<u>Material</u>	<u>Amount Realised</u>
T	C	Q		£. s. d.
101	16	1	Paper	71. 8. 1.
12	8	1	Blackscrap	18. 8. 4.
23	17	0	Baled Tins	29. 16. 3.
	16	0	Bones	4. 14. 8.
114	4	3	Kitchen Waste	312. 18. 0.
1	9	1	Rags & Aluminium	29. 3. 4.
1	16	0	Jars, etc.	12. 10. 0.
			Bonus	33. 1. 9.
256	7	2		£1,159. 0. 5.

Comparative figures regarding salvage over the last three years are shown in the following tables:-

1949			1948			1947		
Weight	Value		Weight	Value		Weight	Value	
T	C	Q	T	C	Q	T	C	Q
256	7	2	1159	284	9	181	15	0

Sanitary Inspections during 1949 (including housing)	SANITARY INSPECTION			Remedied
	Premises Visited	Nuisance Discovered	Notices Prol. Stat.	
	411	78	78	6
				63

DISINFESTATION

Houses found to be infested One
 Houses disinfested ,.. One

When required, disinfection is by means of "Vermicide" and "Cescanes" poison gas, carried out by the Local Authority, at the expense of the owner or occupier.

HOUSING

- CONDITIONS The majority of the houses are in rows, stone-built, about 60 years old. Later types are brick-built, semis mainly, many of the houses being owner-occupied and well maintained.
- STATISTICS 6 traditional permanent houses were erected during the year and 38 permanent houses were in hand at 31st December, 1949.
- OVERCROWDING 6 new cases of overcrowding occurred during the year, and 34 dwellings were known to be overcrowded at the end of the year.
- HOUSES REQUIRED TO ALLEVIATE OVERCROWDING There is a definite shortage of 3-bedroom type houses. To meet overcrowding, 50 three-bedroom, 30 two-bedroom and 30 one-bedroom type houses are required. Houses are also required for newly-married couples and bungalows for old people living with their children.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOODS

- DAIRIES AND MILKSHOPS The milk supply is plentiful and its quality wholesome and it is distributed throughout the District directly, chiefly by farmers in the vicinity. Retail milk purveyors registered with the Council number 34. Periodical inspections of places where food is prepared have been made, and the premises generally have been found in good order. Periodically, bacteriological examinations of samples of milk are made by the County Council.

MEAT

All slaughtering has been transferred to Abattoirs outside the District.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

All cases of Infectious Diseases were visited upon notification, and where patients are not transferred to isolation hospital, they are isolated in one room of the house. Disinfectants are kept at the Town Hall and supplies are given to necessitous cases.

Diphtheria Antitoxin and Tetanus Antitoxin were issued free to Medical Practitioners on application.

MEASLES

66 cases of Measles were notified during the year. They were mostly of a mild type, with no deaths.

WHOOPING COUGH

6 cases of Whooping Cough were notified during the year, and there were no deaths.

DIPHTHERIA

1 case of Diphtheria was notified during the year. This case was in an immunised child who was not ill in himself, and was really a carrier.

TUBERCULOSIS

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1949

AGE PERIOD	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 - 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 5	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-
5 - 10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10 - 15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 20	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-
20 - 25	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 35	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
35 - 45	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 55	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 - 65	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Over 65	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	2	2	1	4	-	-	1	-

CASES ON REGISTER AT 31st DECEMBER, 1949.

On the Register at the end of December, 1949, there were 35 cases of Tuberculosis, 20 Pulmonary and 15 Non-Pulmonary.

	Under 1- 1 yr.	5- 5	15- 15	25- 25	35- 35	45- 45	55- 55	Over 65.	Total
Pulmonary Tuberculosis					5	4	3	4	20
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis:-								1	
Spine					2				2
Cervical Glands	1	3	3	1	1				9
Testis							1		1
Abdomen			1						1
Rt. Knee Joint			1						1
Both Legs						1			1
	1	5	8	7	4	6	3	1	35

As these cases are dealt with by the County Tuberculosis Officer, we have no direct information about the number of cases receiving allowances.

The following table gives the total number of cases of Infectious Diseases notified, and the ages, during 1949:-

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (Other than Tuberculosis) DURING THE YEAR 1949

LABORATORY WORK

SPECIMENS EXAMINED DURING YEAR 1949

Swabs for Diphtheria }
Faeces: Pathogenic organisms } Nil
Sputum for Tuberculosis }

ILLEGITIMATE CHILDREN

There are no Social Workers in this area,
but the Burnley & District House of Help
does good service in this connection.

